

THE COLUMBUS-ATHENS SCHWEITZER FELLOWS PROGRAM

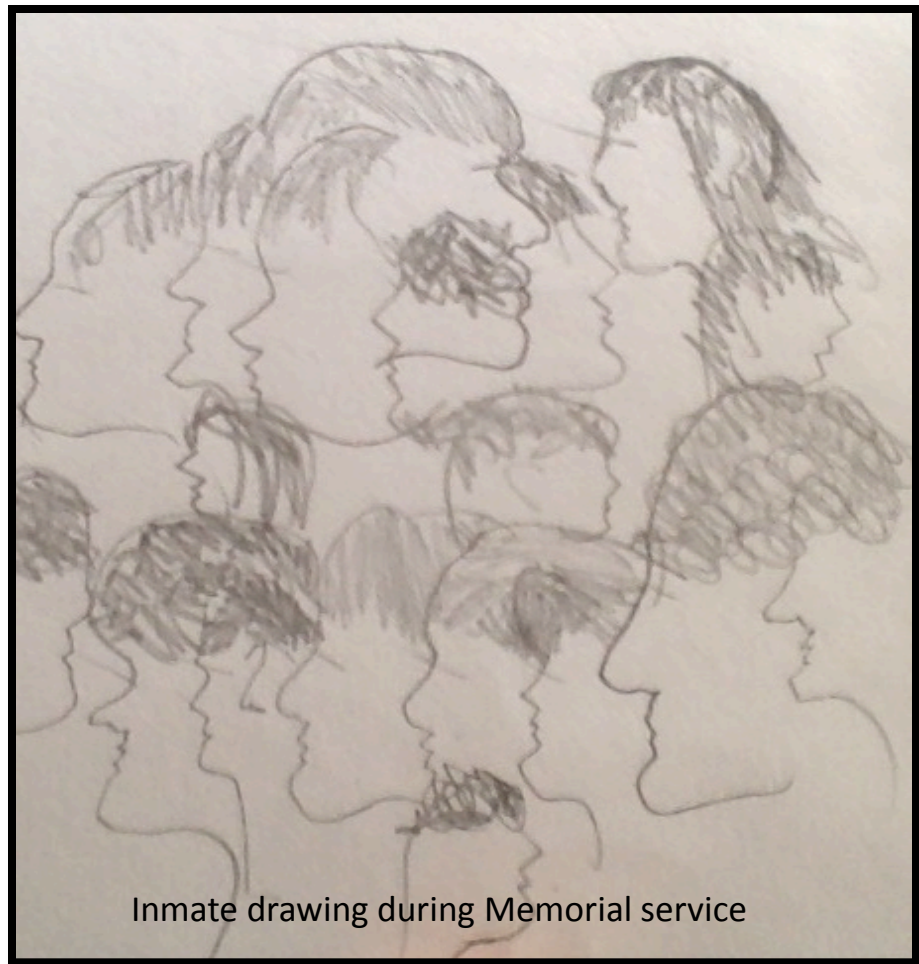
Purpose: To facilitate service projects to benefit the Columbus and Athens communities, and simultaneously develop emerging professionals who have the skills to address unmet health-related needs throughout their careers.

THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP®
*Addressing Health Disparities
by Developing Leaders in Service*

“Start early to instill in your students awareness that they are on this earth to help and serve others; that is as important to pass on to them as knowledge.”

—Albert Schweitzer, PhD, MD

Care for Aging Inmates



Inmate drawing during Memorial service

The Project

Created and implemented community volunteer activities for aging inmates on FMC’s 2 North to promote wellness through:

- ✧ Meaning & Purpose
- ✧ Creativity
- ✧ Expression
- ✧ Social Interaction & Connection



Hats crocheted for the Homeless

Impacts

- ✧ Integrated project goals with those of the prison medical center’s team
- ✧ Strengthened ‘Ministry of Presence’ at First Community Church
- ✧ Built rapport and trust with older inmates and staff
- ✧ Developed and led crochet, craft, and reading groups
- ✧ Facilitated special events such as: holiday parties, yard day activities, & memorial service



My team

Introduction

From 1981-2011, the U.S. older adult prison population grew 282%, compared to a 42% expansion in general prison population. Though it is often ignored by the general public, inmate wellness matters because 95% of people in prison will be released back into society, care for frail adults is expensive, and all people require care of the body, mind and spirit. Prison systems are struggling to provide appropriate care for this enlarging population.

The Site

The **Franklin Medical Center (FMC)** is Columbus’ healthcare facility for inmates. The CARE program provides palliative care for inmates with advanced terminal illness. It is housed in a medical unit for fragile and aging inmates.



Inmate weaving created for Memorial Service

Created and implemented community volunteer activities to complement staff and inmate efforts to provide death with dignity through:

- ✧ Bedside visitation
- ✧ Family support
- ✧ Formal observance of inmate loss

Future work

- ✧ Creation of formalized processes to involve community volunteers in supporting families of dying inmates
- ✧ Further advocacy for holistic care for inmates



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